

—why, that is all I shall ask, and quite as as *I*
have
any right to expect."

During his Presidency he purchased a small tract of land in western Virginia, with a small cabin-like house, to which he and Mrs. Roosevelt were accustomed to go for brief visits from time to time. He named the place ^{*4} Pine Knot, ^{**} and on one occasion he had as guest John Burroughs, the poet and naturalist. Writing to Frank M. Chapman, of the New York Museum of Natural History, on May 10, 1908, he described what occurred during the visit:

" John Burroughs and I had a very pleasant time during our three days at Pine Knot. I was much pleased to be able to show him all the birds I had said I would, including the Bewick's wren, the blue grosbeak, the gnatcatcher, the summer redbird, etc. The one bird about which we were doubtful was the Henslow's bunting. I think he found the place almost too primitive, for a family of flying squirrels had made their abode inside the house. This tended to keep *Mm* awake at nights, whereas we have become rather attached to them. In one plowed field I found a nighthawk sitting. If I had chosen to knock it down with my hat I could have done so, but I wanted not to hurt it; and as I endeavored softly to seize it, it got away just as my fingers touched it. It did not go far, but sat lengthwise along the limb of a small tree and let me come within two feet of it before flying. When I see you again I am going to point out one or two minor matters in connection with the song of the Bewick's wren and the looks of the blue

grosbeak, where
we were a little puzzled by your accounts. I
suppose that
there is a good deal of individual variation
among the birds
themselves as well as among the observers.

*"I now feel as though I wonder how I ever
got on with-
out your * Birds of the Eastern United
States* and your
book on warblers/**

The subjoined letter to Senator Lodge,
August 18, 1908,
gives us a glimpse of Roosevelt's keen sense
of humor:

⁴⁴ To my immense delight, which I know you
will share,